Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia Volume XX-02 Number 24 August 12, 2002

Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate Recognizes Employees at Wallops

The following Wallops employees recently received NASA Honor Awards and were recognized by Rick Obenschain, Director of the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate, on July 23, 2002, at Wallops.

The NASA A Honor Awards Ceremony will be held on August 27, 2002, at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

- **Exceptional Service Medal**
Joel M. Simpson, NASA, Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems Engineering Branch (GN&C).

- **Exceptional Service Medal**
H. Dean Price, NASA, Electrical Systems Branch (posthumously) Dean's wife, Janice, accepted the award.

- **Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal**
J. Barton Bull, NASA GN&C Systems Engineering Branch.

- **Group Achievement Award**
Wallops Flight Facility Automated Tracking System (ATS). Jeffrey L. Dorman, Computer Sciences Corporation, Real-Time Software Engineering Branch, accepted the award for the group.

Photos by T. Burton

Rick Obenschain, left, and Joel Simpson

H. Dean Price *1994 Photo by O. Howard*

Rick Obenschain and Barton Bull

Rick Obenschain andJeff Dorman

Personnel Actions

Keith DeWeese and Russ Dufrene, NASA Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems Engineering Branch, have been accepted into the Part-Time Graduate Study Program for 2002-2003. DeWeese will pursue his Masters in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland-College Park. Dufrene will pursue his Doctorate in Computer Information Systems from NOVA Southeastern.

Elizabeth (Libby) West has been selected for an AST, Launch and Flight Operations position in the Range and Mission Management Office (R&MMO) effective Aug. 12, 2002. She was previously employed by Computer Sciences Corporation as a Mission Manager supporting the R&MMO.

Wallops In the News

Eastern Shore Post --"International Studies – NASA Lab at Mary N. Smith School"

Eastern Shore News -- "Maryland Senator Pushes Study of Bigger Role for Wallops"

Worcester County Messenger -- Senator Promotes Wallops Potential

Wallops shorts……

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on August 6. The rocket underflew the Solar Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) satellite.

The solar and heliospheric sciences payload provided cross calibration and solar atmosphere investigations and is a multi-year program to provide the absolute solar flux in the extreme ultraviolet wavelength region. Data from the flight will provide verification of the SOHO Solar EUV Monitor. Dr. Darrell Judge, University of Southern California, was the principal investigator. The payload was recovered.

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Lynn Lake, MB, Canada on August 8. The 40 million cubic foot balloon carried a Balloon-borne Experiment with a Superconducting Spectrometer (BESS).

BESS payload prior to launch

Dr. Akira Yamamoto of the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization in Japan and Dr. John Mitchell of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt were co-investigators on this international experiment. Total flight time was 23 hours, 14 minutes. The payload landed on dry ground, and science group members were taken by helicopter to the site for recovery of data tapes within two hours of impact. For the complete story visit: http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/20020809balloon.html

Item of Interest

Dr. Andrew K.Rogers, Senior Principal Scientist of Planning Systems Inc., Reston, Va., expressed his appreciation for services of the NASA P-3B aircraft June 17-19, 2002. Dr. Rogers stated, "All personnel conducted themselves in an outstanding and professional manner going far beyond any standard or expectation."He stated that DynCorp employees Steve Spears, Dave Easmunt and Clay Merscham had exhibited exemplary efforts.

Monthly Weather Summary
by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

July was hot, humid and oppressive
With six of the first 9 days of July delivering temperatures in the 90s, July started out hot and did not back off. The average temperature for the month was 79 degrees, which is three degrees above normal for the month.

The highest temperature recorded was 96 degrees and occurred on July 4 and again on the 29th. The 96 degree reading on July 29 tied a daily record set in 1993 as did a reading of 94 degrees on July 2. The original record for the date was set in 1968.

We experienced 13 days with temperatures at or above 90 degrees and 14 days with temperatures in the 80s. We were above average for high temperatures on 21 days during the month. The coolest night was July 12 when a temperature of 55 degrees was recorded. Overnight low temperatures were above normal on 21 nights. Nighttime lows fell only into 70 to 79 degree range on 19 nights. No monthly record lows were tied or set. Air conditioners running non-stop – oh, the electric bills we are about to receive.

As much as we need an abundant rainfall, we came up .13 inches short of the monthly average with 3.41 inches. Most of this rain, 2.07 inches, fell on July 24. Measurable rain fell on 8 days, just shy of the monthly average of 10.

is passing in high gear.

Labor Day followed by milder temperatures in September is not far away. The average high the first of September is in the low 80s decreasing into the low 70s by the end of the month. The record high temperature for September, 96 degrees, occurred on Sept. 11, 1983. The record low of 40 degrees occurred on Sept. 30, 1970. On average, measurable rain falls on seven days during September with a monthly average of 3.53 inches.

At the beginning of September, there will still be three months left in the tropical storm season. Again this year, we have only had two named tropical systems as of early August. Tropical storm activity usually peaks in September before dropping off during October.

Be prepared for the onset of a storm. Recheck emergency supplies and have a possible evacuation plan in mind.

Summer is officially over soon after Labor Day, but some of the best weather for outdoor activities occurs during September.

Space Shuttle Fleet Set for Return to Flight Sept. 28

Following an extensive investigation into the cause of tiny cracks inside fuel lines of the four Space Shuttle orbiters, NASA has announced the team is ready to resume preparations for launching on Sept. 28, with Atlantis up first on an assembly mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

"We've just completed a thorough review of the team's findings and recommendations, and I am pleased to report to you that — pending the satisfactory completion of welding repairs — we plan to resume shuttle flights by the end of September," said Ron Dittemore, NASA Space Shuttle Program Manager.

A welding and polishing process is being implemented that will restore flow-liner integrity to design condition. These liners are inside the space shuttle main propulsion system fuel lines to preclude liquid hydrogen and oxygen turbulent flow into the engines during launch and climb to orbit.

The technique calls for welds of three very small cracks on Atlantis and two on Endeavour, which now is targeted for a launch no earlier than Nov. 2, also to the ISS. Additionally, the microscopic rough edges of the liner holes will be smoothed by polishing to reduce the chance of more cracks developing in the future.

These two ISS assembly missions (STS-112/9A and STS-113/11A) will deliver additional segments for the station's eventual 360-foot-long truss structure. STS-113 will serve as an ISS crew-rotation mission as well.

Columbia's 16-day dedicated research mission (STS-107) is targeted for no earlier than Nov. 29, pending further review.

The welding repair was chosen after several groups of engineers determined the most likely cause of these cracks is high-cycle fatigue — a phenomenon attributed to combined environments such as vibration, thermal and acoustics. All Space Shuttle flights have been on hold while teams of engineers evaluated the cause of these tiny cracks discovered in June.

Wallops Prayer Club
Noon
August 14
Building F-6, Room 213
Speaker: Linda Spence

Tailgate Sale
August 14
11:30 a.m.
Flag Court Parking Lot

Anyone is welcome to come and set up. For information, call Terry Ewell on x1133.

Women's Equality Day
Luncheon
August 26
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Building E-2, Williamsburg Room


Hope Mihalap

Hope Mihalap will be the guest speaker and her topic will be "Family and Career: How Things Have Changed!"

Mihalap was born in Virginia and grew up in a Greek-American family. She has been a newspaper columnist and television show guest and is an announcer on public radio. An accent specialist, she also is the character voice behind numerous radio and television commercials.

Tickets for the luncheon are $7 and are available in the Exchange Building. All tickets must be purchased by 2 p.m. on August 22.

Crow Found Near Onancock Tested Positive for West Nile Virus

Eastern Shore Health District Director, Dr. Michael Margolius, M.D., M.P.H., announced Friday, August 9, that a dead crow found in Accomack County (Virginia) near Onancock on August 2 has been confirmed to have West Nile virus. This is the first positive bird to be found on the Eastern Shore.

"The bird was reported to the Accomack County Health Department by the property owner. An Environmental Health Specialist was dispatched to the site, the bird was collected and sent to the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services that same evening," Dr. Margolius said.

West Nile virus is spread to birds, humans, horses and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not get sick. People who do get sick usually suffer a mild flu-like illness. People over age 50 are at greatest risk of serious illness, such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

Department of Health's Web site at www.vdh.state.va.us, and click onto "West Nile Virus Update."

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor Betty Flowers